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Right of peoples to self-determination

The rule of law at the national and international levels

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Letter dated 24 April 2007 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the decision of a court of the United States of America to grant the release on bail of the terrorist, Luis Posada Carriles.

The Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is of the view that the release of Luis Posada Carriles is an act of the utmost contempt for justice and for the victims of terrorism.

In light of the importance of this matter, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the official communiqué of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, dated 22 April 2007, which calls for a firm response from Governments and multilateral organizations to prevent impunity for the promoters and perpetrators of terrorist acts and reiterates the request made to the Government of the United States of America for the immediate extradition of Luis Posada Carriles (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would arrange for this letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 66, 80 and 100, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Aura Mahuampi **Rodriguez de Ortiz**
Alternate Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 24 April 2007 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Communiqué of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela: release of Posada Carriles shows utmost contempt for justice and for the victims of terrorism

22 April 2007

The release of the terrorist Luis Posada Carriles is the final result of the manoeuvre set in motion by the Government of George W. Bush to protect him, thereby promoting impunity and shamelessly mocking the memory of the victims of the bombing of the Cubana Airlines flight in 1976.

This act of complicity committed by the unprincipled leader of the United States of America is an attempt to buy the silence of Posada Carriles, who during his many years of criminal activity was an agent of the United States Central Intelligence Agency and a key figure of the Bush clan, as the declassified documents of the United States Government have shown. He is therefore in possession of valuable information about the criminal activities against the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Since the 1970s, this terrorist has been involved in numerous plots to track down, torture and assassinate men and women throughout the length and breadth of our continent. His most notorious crimes were the bombing of the Cuban plane in Barbados, the torture and murder of social leaders in Venezuela, his support for terrorist operations in Central America against Nicaragua and El Salvador, and the killing with explosives of tourists in Cuba, among other crimes for which he is responsible.

The United States Government had available to it various options for legally detaining him by declaring him a terrorist, as it is quick to do when it suits its purpose, but it chose instead to release him. He could also have been detained on immigration charges of illegal entry or held pending extradition, as requested by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela under the extradition agreement it has signed with the United States of America.

The idea of continuing to use his services to act against the continent's leaders could have been the reason for his release. Releasing a known terrorist is a decision that illustrates and confirms the double standard of a Government which claims to be fighting terrorism while at the same time it supports these murderous acts by its own conduct.

This regrettable decision has been taken today, 19 April, a historic day for Latin American independence. It is a decision that shows utter disrespect for justice and for the victims of terrorism. The conscience of the peoples of Latin America will relentlessly pursue terrorists and one of their principal accomplices, the current President of the United States of America.

The Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela calls upon international public opinion and upon peoples everywhere to mobilize and on Governments and multilateral organizations to take firm action so that terrorists and their backers do not go unpunished and reiterates its request to the Government of the United States of America for the immediate extradition of this dangerous criminal.